

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/808,221

Examiner

Ruth C Rodriguez

Applicant(s)

WONG ET AL.

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3677

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed on 25 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 19, 20 and 5-8 that will be renumbered 1-10 respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sally J. Brown on 15 November 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 9-18 have been canceled.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

For claim 1, Frantom discloses an anchoring apparatus comprises a flexible connector member and a fastener. The flexible connector member attaches to a vehicle safety device. The flexible connector member has an end and a loop. The loop defines an aperture. The loop configured with a twist throughout a body of the loop. The fastener secures the end of the connector member and retains the twist in the loop.

The aperture receives and retains a seat belt harness. Frantom fails to disclose that th

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aperture of the loop receives and retains an anchor bolt. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have an anchor bolt received and retained in the aperture of the loop since Frantom clearly discloses that the aperture is used to retain a seat belt harness.

Regarding claim 5, Greib discloses a method for making an anchoring apparatus and attaching the apparatus to a vehicle safety device and to an anchor bolt. The method comprises providing a flexible connector member having an end; forming a loop in the connector member; securing the end to the connector member to retain the loop and to define an aperture to receive and retain the anchor bolt; engaging the aperture with the anchor bolt; and attaching the connector member to the vehicle safety device. Greib fails to disclose that a twist is formed in the loop and that securing the end of the connector member retains the twist in the loop. Although Beasley teaches an anchoring apparatus having the feature disclosed by the Applicant for his invention, Beasley teaches that the apparatus is used for hoisting and towing and not to anchor a safety device. Similarly, Frantom fails to disclose that the aperture of his anchoring apparatus can be used to receive an anchor bolt. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the method disclosed by Greib where the anchoring apparatus has a twist formed in the loop and that the twist is secured.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the date of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

McC. Garris (US 2,082,828), Beasley et al. (US 4,239,271), St. Germain (US 4,240,659), Frantom (US 4,315,637), Beggins (US 4,414,712), Parsons (US 5,339,498), Sedlack (US 5,536,066), Kerg et al. (US 6,301,753 B1) and Greib et al. (US 6,390,501 B1) are cited to show state of the art with respect to anchoring apparatus having some of the features of the current application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-1881. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged.

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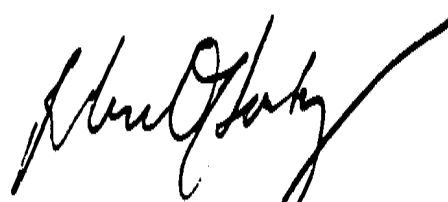
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Ruth C. Rodriguez
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677

rcr

November 15, 2004



ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER